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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6227

~~CONTINENTAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6133

TATE

FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER FROM AMBASSADOR CASTRO  
E.O. 12065: XDS-1 7/30/00 (CASTRO, RAUL H.) OR-M  
TAGS: PINS FL AR SHUM  
SUBJECT: (C) BOLIVIAN RECOGNITION BY GOA

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ONE OF MY MOST AGONIZING MOMENTS OF MY TOUR OF DUTY IN ARGENTINA OCCURRED YESTERDAY (JULY 29) AT 1300 HRS AT THE FONOFF WHEN I HAD TO SIT THROUGH TWO HOURS OF DIATRIBE AT A LUNCHEON IN WHICH I WAS THE GUEST OF HONOR.

3. SUPPOSEDLY I WAS THERE TO RECEIVE ACCOLADES FROM THE FONMIN FOR MY EFFORTS TOWARDS BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AMERICANS AND ARGENTINES. SOME OF THE PLATITUDES WERE PRESENT, BUT MOST OF FONMIN PASTOR'S REMARKS WERE UNCONVENTIONAL AND HARD-HITING WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE OCCASION. HE USED THE LUNCHEON AS A FORUM, CONSISTING OF SIXTEEN AMBASSADORS I HAD SUGGESTED AS INVITEES, TO GIVE A DISCOURSE ON GOA'S POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION. HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO BOLIVIA AND HOW THERE EXISTED AN AUTHENTIC SOLIDARITY BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, WHICH WENT BEYOND CIRCUMSTANTIAL HISTORIC EPISODES, AND IT WAS THE ONLY ONE WHICH COULD HELP ARGENTINA'S BROTHERS-NEIGHBORS OF BOLIVIA AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

4. PASTOR RAMBLED ON, STATING THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BOLIVIA WAS UNIMPEACHABLE. HE FURTHER COMMENTED ADN WARNED THAT SOLIDARITY BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS RAN THE RISK OF BECOMING A CONSTANT AND AUTOMATIC REFLEX. UNSUITABLE TO FREE, INDEPENDENT NATIONS.

5. FONMIN WAS NOTIFIED BY ME PRIOR TO THE LUNCHEON OF

DEN, VP  
FOR: THORN

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DEPARTMENTAL MANDATE TO CANCEL AMB. BOWDLER'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA. I DID THIS SO HE KNEW THE SETTING IN WHICH WE WERE DEALING. IT GAVE HIM A CHOICE OF EITHER FINDING AN EXCUSE TO CANCEL THE LUNCHEON OR HIT ME HARD DURING THE ORATORY. IT ALSO GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY OF AVOIDING PRAISING ME TO HIGH HEAVEN IF THE HEADLINES WOULD SHORTLY SHOW THAT AMB. BOWDLER'S CANCELLATION WAS AN AFFRONT TO GOA.

6. AS IT TURNED OUT I LATER LEARNED FONMIN HAD THREE SPEECHES PREPARED. ONE IF AMB. BOWDLER APPEARED. A SECOND ONE IF BOWDLER CANCELLED OUT AND A THIRD ONE IF AMB. BOWDLER ONLY MADE A TOKEN APPERANCE. IMMEDIATELY UPON MY NOTIFICATION OF THE CANCELLATION, THE FONOFF TOOK A SEMELANCE OF A THREE-RING CIRCUS AS EVERYONE WAS RUNNING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. THIS, OF COURSE, ALL IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER AMBASSADORS.

7. MY REPLY TO FONMIN TOAST WAS SIMPLE WITH THE TURUST BEING ONE OF "HASTA LA VISTA Y NO ADIOS". BY THE TIME I SAT DOWN IT WAS APPARENT MOST OF THE GUESTS FELT UNCOMFORTABLE AS THERE WAS A LOT OF SQUIRMING. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT THE FONMIN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY PRESENCE TO DISCUSS A POLITICAL ISSUE.

8. COMMENT: THERE IS NO QUESTION FEELINGS HAVE BEEN WOUNDED. THERE HAS BEEN A TEMPORARY SETBACK IN RELATIONS. MY FEELING IS WE MUST PROCEED ON A LOW-KEY BASIS FOR A FEW DAYS. PERHAPS NEXT WEEK, MR. CLAUS RUSER, WHO WILL BE CHARGE WITHIN A FEW HOURS, CAN START HIS ROUNDS OF COURTESY CALLS ON GOA OFFICIALS. THIS IS MY SWAN-SONG AS I DEPART PERMANENTLY TONIGHT.

CASTRO

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